

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 HA-05
/108 W

-----015295 090146Z /63

R 080818Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2528
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GH, ET, SO, SS
SUBJ: GHANA'S VIEWS ON HORN AND WESTERN SAHARA

REF: (A) ACCRA 1496, (B) ACCRA 1095 (NOTAL)

1. SPEAKING FIRST IN LONDON FOLLOWING OAU TRIPOLI MEETING AND
THEN IN ACCRA AFTER HIS RETURN TO GHANA OVER WEEKEND OF
MARCH 4-5, COMMISSIONER (MINISTER) FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COL. R.J.A. FELLI MADE FOLLOWING POINTS, AS REPORTED IN
LOCAL PRESS:

2. ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA CONFLICT: GHANA IS OPPOSED TO ACQUISITION
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OF TERRITORY BY FORCE BY ANY COUNTRY. IT RESPECTS OAU AND
UN VIEWS ON BORDERS AND DOES NOT THINK THAT "REVIEW OF
BORDERS, ESPECIALLY BY FORCE, IS THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE
THE PROBLEM." GHANA'S POSITION IS THAT SOMALIA MUST
WITHDRAW FROM THE OGADEN. FELLI NOTED THAT THE HORN
CONFLICT WAS NOT SHELVED AT TRIPOLI MEETING: HE SAID OAU
RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE WILL SOON MEET IN LAGOS AND

RESULTS WILL BE ASSESSED AT NEXT OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM.

3. WESTERN SAHARA: FELLI STATED THAT "WE DISAPPROVE OF THE PARTITION OF THE WESTERN SAHARA. WE THINK MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE TERRITORY AND ALLOW THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR FATE THEMSELVES."

4. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, FELLI'S COMMENTS REPRESENT THE FIRST TIME GHANA HAS PUBLICLY TAKEN SIDES IN HORN DISPUTE. HOWEVER, AS NOTED REF (A), IT HAS LONG BACKED OAU POSITION ON INVIOABILITY OF EXISTING FRONTIERS AND ITS STAND ON BOTH HORN AND WESTERN SAHARA IS CONSISTENT WITH THIS PRINCIPLE. GHANA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY SILENT ON BOTH ISSUES IN THE PAST BUT FELLI'S COMMENTS MAY REFLECT A GOG DECISION TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE, AT LEASE VERBALLY, ON THESE PROBLEMS AS WELL AS ON RHODESIAN QUESTION (SEPTTEL). IF SO, THIS INCREASES LIKLIHOOD THAT GOG WOULD CRITICIZE US DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IF WE GAVE MOROCCO ARMS FOR USE IN WESTERN SAHARA, (REF B). SMITH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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